INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

Effects of the Megastunami on the Countries Involved

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was an undersea megathrust earthquake that occurred at 00:58:53 UTC on Sunday, 26 December 2004, with an epicentre off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. With a magnitude of Mw 9.1–9.3, it is the third largest earthquake ever recorded on a seismograph. The earthquake had the longest duration of faulting ever observed, between 8.3 and 10 minutes. The impact of the tsunami affected 11 countries worldly, costing substantial economic damage that affected each Region's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and HDI (Human Development Index).

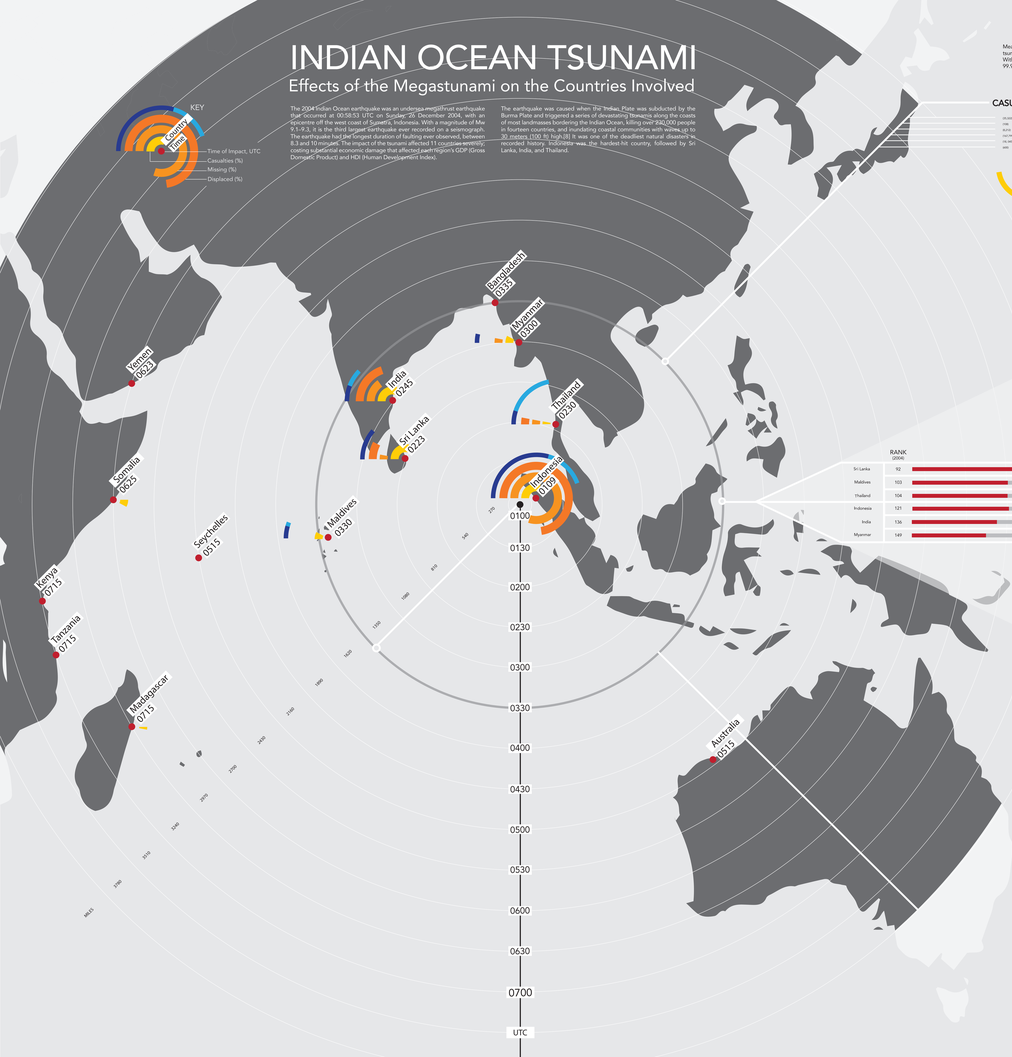
The earthquake was caused when the Indian Plate was subducted by the Burma Plate and triggered a series of devastating Tsunamis along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian Ocean, killing over 230,000 people in fourteen countries, and inundating coastal communities with waves up to 30 metres (100 ft) high.[8] It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. Indonesia was the hardest-hit country, followed by Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand.

Measured in lives lost, this is one of the ten worst earthquakes in recorded history, as well as the single worst tsunami in history. Indonesia was the worst affected area, with most death toll estimates at around 170,000. Within less than 4 hours, the waves of the tsunami went as far as 1350 miles away from the epicenter and killed 99.904% of the lives lost in the disaster.

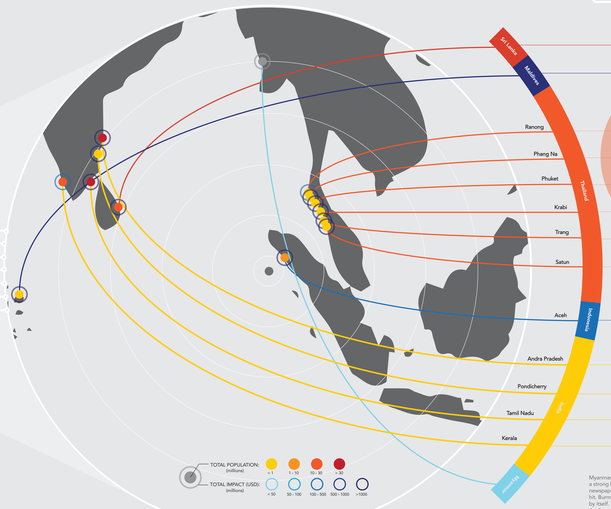
While local economies were devastated, the overall impact to the national economies was minor. The two main occupations affected by the tsunami were fishing and tourism. Even though only costal regions were directly affected by the waters of the tsunami, the indirect effects have spread to inland provinces as well.

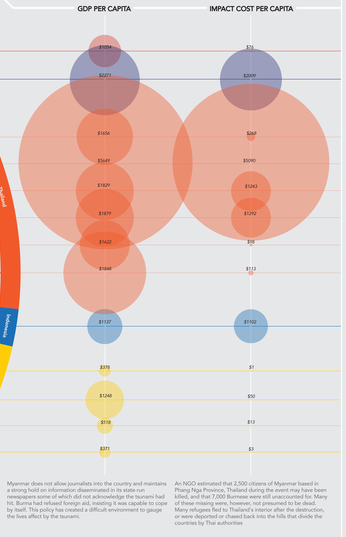
The earthquake had the longest duration of faulting ever observed, between 8.3 and 10 minutes. It caused the entire planet to vibrate as much as 1 centimetre (0.4 inches) and triggered other earthquakes as far away as Alaska. The plight of the affected people and countries prompted a worldwide humanitarian response. In all, the worldwide community donated more than $14 billion (2004 US$) in humanitarian aid.

The humanitarian response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake was prompted by one of the worst natural disasters of modern times. A great deal of humanitarian aid was needed because of widespread damage of the infrastructure, shortages of food and water, and economic damage. The information shows the comparison between donations made by the governments and public companies/NGO alongside the casualties from each continent.



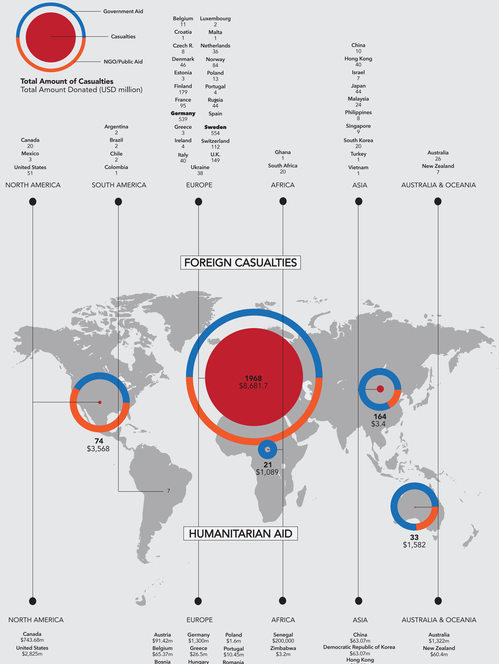
	RANK (2004)	HDI (2004)
Sri Lanka	92	0.715
Maldives	103	0.688
Thailand	104	0.678
Indonesia	121	0.629
India	136	0.554
Myanmar	149	0.498





Myanmar does not allow journalists into the country and maintains a strong hold on information disseminated in its state-run newspapers some of which did not acknowledge the tsunami had hit. Burma had refused foreign aid, insisting it was capable to cope by itself. This policy has created a difficult environment to gauge the lives affect by the tsunami.

An NGO estimated that 2,500 citizens of Myanmar based in Phang Nga Province, Thailand during the event may have been killed, and that 7,000 Burmese were still unaccounted for. Many of these missing were, however, not presumed to be dead. Many refugees fled to Thailand's interior after the destruction, or were deported or chased back into the hills that divide the countries by Thai authorities



Sources:
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